



Community Update

Chromium Ground Water Investigation in Garfield, N.J.

Community Notice

April 2009

EPA HAS BEGUN PHASE TWO OF ITS INVESTIGATION.

QUESTIONS? Please Contact:

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Visit EPA's Web site at:

www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/Garfield

At the request of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a removal assessment regarding chromium contaminated ground water in the city of Garfield, NJ.

As part of the first phase of this assessment, EPA determined which homes and businesses have basements, water infiltration problems, or sump pumps and has taken samples in those properties that may have potential contamination. These samples should take about two months to be analyzed and returned.

While waiting for the property samples to be returned, EPA is moving to the second phase of the investigation. EPA will begin conducting ground water and soil samples to determine the extent of the chromium contamination and attempt to identify all potential sources of contamination.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND INFO:

Historically in Garfield, industrial facilities were located in close proximity to residential areas. These facilities included a tannery and chemical plant, and two electroplating companies. Some of these facilities used chromium in their processes, and it is suspected the ground water in the surrounding area has become contaminated with chromium.

In June 1993, chromium contaminated ground water and crystals were discovered in the basement of the Garfield Fire House #3. Since then, several other houses and business have reported elevated levels of chromium in their ground water.

EPA will conduct site investigations to determine the potential sources, the extent of contamination, and levels of chromium. See reverse for a map of the entire testing area.

www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/garfield

Proposed Area of Study

